

The Urban District of Sandbach



REPORT

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE DISTRICT

for the year ended

31st December 1968

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.,
9 PARK STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.



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To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1968 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

The estimated population as predicted last year has again increased, this time by some 510 persons and now stands at 11,670.

There was a slight increase in the number of births and a considerable fall in the number of deaths. Once again there are no deaths from any of the infectious diseases and the chief forms of death are heart disease and Cerebrovascular accidents.

The Council, through its various Committees, is now having to give increased consideration to the further development in improving the public cleansing system and the sewerage and sewage works consequent upon the increase in population. It is, therefore, particularly interesting to note the remarks of the Chief Public Health Inspector on his section on Public Cleansing, both in connection with the increased number of employees in this service, incentive bonus scheme and the experiment in the use of polythene liners in dust bins. The appropriate Committee will certainly wish to give further consideration to these necessary developments.

On Refuse Disposal, the Council have to look well into the future and it is interesting to note that one of our neighbouring Authorities, who have problems similar to our own, have gone in for a method of pulverisation of domestic refuse which, at the same time, enables them to deal with their sludge problem. These new methods are ones which the Council have at present under consideration and either this method or some similar scheme will certainly have to be given serious consideration. It is satisfactory to note that the new sewerage and surface water scheme in Middlewich Road and Park Lane areas has been successful in alleviating all the difficulties that have been experienced in the past and at the same time opening up considerable areas for development. The Hind Heath sewage disposal works is now the Council's major problem and certainly in the meantime our Engineer and Surveyor is doing an admirable job in holding matters in reasonable check until such time as a new and enlarged works can be provided.

In connection with the replacement of the prefabricated houses in Bailey Crescent by modern houses and bungalows, it is interesting

that in many areas in the County similar schemes have been provided with warden supervisors. This in many ways is similar to the scheme at Lightley Court where in conjunction with the County Welfare department a suitable person is appointed to look after the elderly living in bungalows not only in new created schemes but in those already in existence. This takes the form of provision of a bell system or other communicating system and a twice daily visit by the warden supervisor, who is available at all times for the benefit of the elderly persons should they require help from any source. These schemes, as pointed out above, are working extremely well in many parts of the county and it may well be that our Council would like to give consideration to enlarging the cover available in Sandbach.

We have now established in Sandbach a Family Planning Unit at our Clinic Centre in Platt Avenue which is working extremely well and we are indebted indeed to all the voluntary helpers who take part in this organisation.

Once again I would like to thank Mr. Rogers, our Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. Williams, for their co-operation and assistance and to Mr. Rees, our Engineer and Surveyor, for his contribution to this report. To Mr. Mills, Clerk to the Council, I am indebted for his help and advice on matters particular to my branch of the work I do for the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Divisional Medical Officer

The figures in brackets are for the year 1967
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... 11,670 (11,160)

Births

Live Births—

			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate ...	...	218	(211)	115	(113)	103	(98)
Illegitimate ...	...	13	(8)	6	(1)	7	(7)

Still Births—

Legitimate ...	...	1	(2)	—	(—)	1	(2)
Illegitimate ...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1968 ... 19.5 (20.7)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population ... 16.9 (17.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 4.3 (9.0)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 14.0 (14.8)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population08 (.17)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate ...	...	5	(7)	4	(5)	1	(2)
Illegitimate ...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 births ... 21.6 (31.9)

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales ... 18.0 (18.3)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... 22.9 (33.1)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... — (—)

Deaths

			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Deaths (all ages) ...	...	118	(151)	71	(76)	47	(75)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population ... 12.0 (14.4)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population ... 11.9 (11.2)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

CAUSE	Total	Male	Female
Cholera	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Bacillary Dysentery and amoebiasis	—	—	—
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal disease	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—
Other tuberculosis, including late effects	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Streptococcal sore throat and scarlet fever	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Typhus and other rickettsioses	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—
All other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasms	17	11	6
Benign neoplasms & neoplasms of unspecified nature	—	—	—
Diabetes mellitus	—	—	—
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	—	—	—
Anaemias	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—
Active rheumatic fever	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	—
Hypertensive disease	—	—	—
Ischaemic heart disease	32	22	10
Other forms of heart disease	4	—	4
Cerebrovascular disease	14	5	9
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	7	4	3
Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma	8	6	2
Peptic ulcer	2	—	2
carried forward	86	49	37

	brought forward	86	49	37
Appendicitis	... ..	—	—	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	... ..	1	1	—
Cirrhosis of liver	... ..	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	... ..	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	—	—	—
Abortion	... ..	—	—	—
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	... ..	—	—	—
Congenital anomalies	... ..	—	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	... ..	1	1	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	... ..	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	... ..	15	9	6
All other diseases	... ..	10	6	4
Motor vehicle accidents	... ..	3	3	—
All other accidents	... ..	1	1	—
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	... ..	—	—	—
All other external causes	... ..	—	—	—
	TOTAL ...	118	71	47

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. O. Rae
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

Mrs. J. Hudson
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 2970

Child Health Clinics

It is probable that in the future there will be various types of clinics providing a preventive clinical medical service in the county. It is likely that they will include child health, psychiatric, geriatric, middle-aged or "anticipatory" geriatric clinics. Of these the first to evolve will be the child health clinic.

The need for child welfare clinics, infant welfare clinics, well baby clinics, etc. has been the subject of much discussion since the advent of the National Health Service. The facts that the clinic doctor could no longer issue prescriptions and in the case of a child who was ill could do little more than advise that the child be seen by a general practitioner were those used as arguments for the abolition of clinics. Various proposals have been made and different experiments carried out. In 1964 the Standing Medical Advisory Committee of the Central Health Services Council established a Sub-Committee on Child Welfare Centres under the Chairmanship of Sir Wilfred Sheldon who published a report late in 1967 entitled "Child Welfare Centres" and generally known as "The Sheldon Report".

The Sheldon Report

Few of the conclusions or recommendations of the Sheldon Report were new but at least they were set down as definite recommendations by an authoritative body, most of the recommendations of the report have been accepted by the County Health Department, and it is along the lines indicated by Sheldon that it is intended to develop the Child Health Service in Cheshire.

The main recommendation of the Sheldon Report was :

"We are in no doubt about the continuing need for a preventive service to guard the health of children. We consider it would be more appropriate to describe it as a child health service than a child welfare service. It is our view that in the long term it will be part of the family health service provided by family doctors working in groups from purpose-built family health centres. It is within this concept that our recommendations are made."

The County Health Department agrees wholeheartedly with this statement and this recommendation summarises the County's policy. The Health Committee is committed to the establishment of health centres and these will provide accommodation for general practitioner services and for local health authority services. It is envisaged that more and more general practitioners will become involved in the local authority services of which the child health service is one.

Since 1967 each child born in Cheshire is registered on the Computer which then arranges for the children to be called for immunisation either at the Clinic or by their own family doctor, whichever the parent chooses.

We shall also use the Computer to make special appointments for the Child Health Clinic so that the child can be assessed at regular periods during its early years and finally round about the age of 4½ it will have a pre-school final medical assessment so that the teachers will know of any medical matter which is important in relation to the child's education.

Once again I am thankful to all the voluntary helpers at the Clinic and I am grateful to all of them for the support they readily give.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the W.R.V.S. members who continue so regularly in the Meals on Wheels service.

Statistics

Welfare Centre	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor	Av. attend'ce per Clinic
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5				
Sandbach	208	—	—	3642	875	552	102	259	5.0	49.6
Welfare Centre	(231)	(—)	(—)	(3755)	(704)	(559)	(102)	(388)	(7.6)	(49.1)

Special Clinics for Under 5

	New Cases			Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	28	134	30	4.4		
	(30)	(136)	(8)	(17.0)		
E.N.T. Clinic	13	13	9	1.4		
	(13)	(20)	(11)	(1.8)		

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases			Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	69	109	10	10.0		
	(51)	(499)	(36)	(13.8)		
E.N.T. Clinic	24	96	9	10.6		
	(56)	(138)	(11)	(12.5)		

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	75 (60)	515 (498)	44 (39)	11.7 (12.7)

Welfare Foods Sold – 1968

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	750 (1010)	3 (—)	202 (347)	376 (162)	3106 (2482)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	63 (109)	9 (13)	14 (23)	27 (27)	30 (64)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Hoyle, I. (Mrs.)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2852
	<i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	
Feehan, A. T.	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 2281
	<i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 2256
	<i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	
Hibbert, C. (Mrs.)	11 Plant Lane, Elton	Sandbach 2556
	<i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	
Howard, A. (Mrs.)	17 Queen's Drive, Sandbach	Sandbach 3487
	<i>(Relief - Home Nursing Duties)</i>	

It is satisfactory to record that the work of our Home Nurses and Midwives has gone on at the same high standard and without a single complaint.

Once again numerous items of equipment have been loaned out in order to assist with the nursing of cases in their own homes.

These items consist of the following :

Air Beds	Commodes	Page Turner
Air Cushions	Crutches	Ripple Bed
Air Rings	Eneuresis Blankets	Rubber Sheets
Back Rests	Extending Pick-up	Sanichairs
Bath Rails	Feeding Cups	Special Bed
Bath Seat	Half Step and Stick	Tap Turners
Bath Step	Handy Spring Pole	Tripod Walking Stick
Beds	Hoist	Urine Bottles
Bed Cages	Lift	Walking Aid
Bed Cradles	Mackintosh Sheets	Walking Sticks
Bed Pans	Mattresses	Wheel Chairs

We are constantly enlarging and improving our equipment and we are open to receive suggestions in all cases where special items of equipment are needed.

The Divisional Health Committee can in suitable cases carry out adaption and alterations to homes to assist physically handicapped persons to manage more easily.

These take the form of providing hand rails, toilet aids, ramps, the widening of doors and the provision of paths where special motor vehicles are provided.

Births

Once again it is satisfactory to report that with 231 births notified there have been no maternal deaths.

Meals on Wheels

1968 was the tenth year of the service and it enables the W.R.V.S. to keep a wonderful contact between themselves and the recipients.

The drivers and aides who work to a rota do many little kindnesses and give help when it is needed.

From January to the end of December, 3,352 meals were delivered.

Club for Physically Handicapped Persons

The Club for Physically Handicapped Persons is run in two sections. The social side, which is organised by the W.R.V.S. meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at the Ashfield Clinic. The Handicraft section works in conjunction with the Leonard Cheshire Home where it meets weekly.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Completed Primary Courses – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1968	Year of Birth				Others Under 16	Total	
		1967	1966	1965	1964-61		At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	383	901	70	28	33	109	489	935
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	5	3	—	17	5	—	30
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	2	16	—	18
Polio-Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Sabin	268	903	79	30	146	13	572	867
Measles	—	320	522	369	647	31	1170	719

Reinforcing Doses – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

Type of Vaccine	1968	Year of Birth				Others Under 16	Total	
		1967	1966	1965	1964-61		At Clinics	By G.P.'s
Quadruple	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Triple (D/W.C./T)	—	192	269	52	512	13	382	656
Diph./Whooping C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diph./Tetanus ...	—	5	60	58	325	39	273	214
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	1	1	—	13	84	—	99
Polio-Salk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Sabin	—	155	280	53	775	54	603	714

Smallpox Vaccination – Persons under age 16 (South East Cheshire)

						Others		At Clinics	By G.P's
						under	Total		
						16			
						1968	Year of Birth		
						1967	1966-64	1963-52	
Vaccination ...	...	5	516	304	65	30	920	399	521
Re-Vaccinated	...	—	—	4	16	21	41	—	41

Public Health Laboratory Service

We have continued to use the new laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute once again to the services given and the help and advice we receive from the Pathologist in charge.

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Services provided in Sandbach during 1968 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1968

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	49	(31)
						<hr/> 49	<hr/> (31)

Home Helps employed at 31st December 1968

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	29	(19)
						<hr/> 29	<hr/> (19)

Applications received during 1968

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	24	(30)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	3	(6)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	7	(7)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3	(1)
						<hr/> 37	<hr/> (44)

Cases attended during 1968

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	72	(67)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	10	(7)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	3	(8)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3	(3)
						<hr/> 88	<hr/> (85)

Cases receiving attention at 31st December 1968

Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	50	(46)
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	...	11	(6)
Mentally Disordered	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	2	(—)
Others	...	...	...	...	...	2	(—)
						<hr/> 65	<hr/> (52)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Sandbach Urban District is supplied with River Dee water which is of moderate hardness from the Hurleston Treatment Works.

Extensive housing development has continued in the district and mains extensions have been carried out for the following estates : The Limes ; Church Lane ; Mill Hill Lane ; Offley House stage 4 ; Smithfield Lane ; and a new 4 ins. main has been laid to the Motel in Holmes Chapel Road, and a new 2 ins. main for two bungalows off Heath Road. Improved supplies have been afforded to the Wheelock Heath areas by a new 6 ins. main in Crewe Road.

Regular bacteriological samples are taken in all districts and so far the water has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Sewerage and Surface Water Scheme for the Middlewich Road and Park Lane areas was completed early in 1968, and has alleviated the difficulties in the locality, in addition to providing drainage facilities for considerable development in the future.

During the year the Council gave further consideration to the enlargement of Hind Heath Sewage Disposal Works and having considered the preliminary report of the Consulting Engineers, instructed them to prepare a detailed scheme. A considerable amount of the preliminary work has been carried out and it is anticipated that the scheme will be ready for presentation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government early in 1969.

Housing

A scheme for Bailey Crescent Site involving the demolition of the 20 prefabricated houses and the construction of 35 dwellings comprising 12 three-bedroomed houses, 11 two-bedroomed bungalows and 12 one-bedroomed bungalows, was completed early in the year as was also the construction of 9 one-bedroomed bungalows at Town Fields.

During 1968, 189 dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1968

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Measles	9	27	30	27	24	102	1	-	-	-	-	-	220	-	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1968 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1959.

Notifications — 1959 to 1968

	1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14					1															
15-24																				
25-34	1							1												
35-44							1						1							
45-54																				
55-64													1							
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14	1																			
15-24																			1	
25-34					1	1														
35-44																	2			
45-54																				
55-64										1										
65 and over																				
TOTAL	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	-

Deaths – 1959 to 1968

	1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64													1							
65 and over							1				1									
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases on Register at 31st December 1968

	Up to 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	2	-	9
Female Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	6
Male Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	5
Female Non-Pulmonary...	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	5

The following section of this report have been compiled by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1968	3449
Number of Informal Notices served during 1968	58
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1968	63
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/68...	6
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1968	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1968	0

The number of inspections and visits varied little from the previous year. It has to be borne in mind that, in addition to Public Health work, a large number of visits are made in relation to the other section of the Department, Council House Management.

Complaints from members of the public continue to increase in number, and they are so often made in a resentful manner and with a threat at the outset that the matter will not be allowed to rest until the complainants are completely satisfied. Frequently it is suggested that the complaint will be referred to the press if the Council do not take action ; and the local newspapers appear to be very receptive to this type of information, regardless of the nature of the person involved and the validity of the complaint.

It will be seen that only one Statutory Notice was served during the year and it did not become necessary to institute Court Proceedings in any instance. This should not be taken as a sign of inactivity on the part of the inspectorate or as an indication that sanitary conditions in the area are beyond reproach ; rather is it a guide to the effective co-operation which has been achieved and the success of informal action.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The Refuse Collection service has been strained throughout the year by having to absorb the additional housing development in the area.

A comprehensive report on the service was submitted in October, as a result of which the Council agreed to include in the forthcoming Financial Estimates provision for increasing the number of employees, introducing an Incentive Bonus Scheme, enlarging the

Saturday piece-work, and extending the experiments with polythene bin-liners. Some agreement was also reached on future policy for the purchase of vehicles.

In the last quarter of the year an experiment was conducted on the use of polythene liners in dustbins, a new Council development of 35 dwellings being chosen for this purpose. The results are most encouraging. These plastic bags were also issued as additional containers to households which were due to miss their normal weekly collections on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and the reactions from householders and refuse collectors were favourable.

Refuse Disposal

Enquiries have continued in an effort to secure further tipping sites. Malkins Bank Tip has been in use by the Council for the past 25 years but very little tipping space now remains. When the Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions were lifted tipping was resumed at Hole House Farm, but this site has now been completed. As a temporary measure, by the kindness of the firm concerned, use is being made of an existing industrial tip, but this can only afford a breathing space until some long-term disposal facilities are established.

The days of tipping crude refuse are rapidly passing and it is obvious that future thoughts must be directed towards some form of treatment such as pulverisation or incineration. However, the expense involved would undoubtedly warrant consideration of the matter on a joint basis between several neighbouring Local Authorities.

Civic Amenities Act 1967

Abandoned vehicles have not so far presented any serious problem in the Urban District. Car owners wishing to dispose of old vehicles are allowed to leave them at the Malkins Bank Tip or at Newall Avenue Depot where a locked compound has been established for the purpose. Co-operation with the Police Authority is good, and informal action in respect of old cars has so far secured the desired results. The Malkins Bank Tip is also made available to any individual wishing to dispose of other rubbish.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 196 properties were supplied in this way.

So far rubber lids, although available, have not been in great demand by the purchasers of dustbins ; but, as a small contribution to noise prevention, it is intended that the Council will stock only rubber lids in future.

Conservancy

The scheme whereby arrangements were made with Congleton Rural District Council for the emptying of pail closets in this area has continued throughout the year and has worked very satisfactorily. Eleven houses are thus served and three pails from other types of premises are also emptied. It is pleasing that the proportion of unsewered properties in the district is extremely low despite the fact that this is a semi-rural area.

Public Conveniences

It is difficult to make any original comment. Although little structural damage has occurred during the past year, the frequent misuse of the public conveniences continues. It appears that this is something which we have come to expect and accept.

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

(a) Individual Houses									
Number of Demolition Orders made									—
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders									6
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action									7
Number of unfit houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957									14
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners									—
(b) Clearance Areas									
Number of Areas declared during the year									—
Number of Orders made during the year									—
Number of houses demolished									—
(c) Rehousing from Unfit Houses									
Number of families rehoused									11
Number of persons rehoused									25

No further progress was made with the Chapel Street Clearance Area. The matter still stands in abeyance because a decision is not forthcoming from the County Council on the question of a new by-pass road in this neighbourhood.

Negotiations are still in hand for the purchase of the group of unfit houses at East Elworth where it would be the Council's intention to redevelop the land with accommodation for elderly persons.

Closing Orders were made in respect of a further 10 houses at Forge Fields. An industrialist is negotiating with the individual owners for the purchase of all these houses with a view to their demolition to permit factory development, and 5 of the houses have so far been demolished.

Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied by owners as a result of informal action	5
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action	0

Certificates of Disrepair

There was no action whatsoever during 1968 concerning
Certificates of Disrepair.

Standard Improvement Grants

		<i>Owner/Occupier</i>	<i>Tenanted</i>
Number of applications received	...	22	3
Number of applications approved	...	21	3
Number of applications refused	... ..	1	—
Number of dwellings improved	... ..	16	3
Amount paid in grants	... ..	£1838	
Average grant per house	... ..	£102	

Amenities provided

[illegible]

The application which was not approved for grant aid concerned a house with an expected life of less than 15 years. In one other instance the grant was not paid because of non-observance of conditions laid down.

Discretionary Improvement Grants

In the light of the national economic situation the Council decided in January 1968, to suspend consideration of applications for Discretionary Grants.

The total number of Improvement Grants approved since the Scheme began is 274.

Housing Act 1964

The Council have not established any Improvement Areas under this Act, nor has there been any desire to invoke compulsory action on improvements. It would appear that the Government envisages new Housing legislation which will place the accent on co-operation rather than compulsion in regard to house improvements.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the latest position with regard to the Register of Applicants for tenancies of Council houses and flats :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year	154
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years	17
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years	4
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years	4
<hr/>	
Total number of "live" applicants on current register ...	179
<hr/>	

32 applicants from the general waiting list were rehoused during 1968 together with five families from "condemned" houses. In addition, there were 88 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list, 18 cases having been accommodated during the year. Five single persons were provided with accommodation in Lightley Court Old People's Flatlets, leaving 35 cases on the waiting list at the end of the year.

Moveable Dwellings

One short-term licence for an individual caravan was issued during 1968, but when this expired near the end of the year there were no licensed individual sites in the Urban District. The licence in respect of a site of 25 residential caravans at Wheelock is still in force and this site continues to be maintained at a high standard.

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the Urban District has been continued in use throughout the year. The lease of the premises has been renewed during this period and this has resulted in further works of improvement being carried out.

During the early months of the year the slaughtering throughput was adversely affected by restrictions connected with the epidemic of Foot and Mouth Disease in the area. However, the throughput for the 12 months was very similar to that of the previous year. Very little of the meat produced at this slaughterhouse went for consumption locally, but there was a further improvement in the quality of meat slaughtered for the city areas as is reflected in the condemnation statistics.

During the year the Council again reviewed the hours of slaughtering in accordance with the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966, and, by agreement with the Slaughterhouse proprietor, slaughtering was further restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday and Tuesdays, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the other five days of the week. Judged by the limits imposed in many other areas the Council's decision may still be considered a generous one.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected	141	873	691	5102	1110	7917
(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1968)						

CONDEMNATIONS

All diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses condemned	4	20	17	3	21	65
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	45	652	2	386	68	1153
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	35%	77%	3%	7%	8%	15%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	1	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.7%	0.1%	—	—	0.09%	0.04%

Analysis in lb. of Condemned Meat

	Beef	Veal	Mutton	Pork
Tuberculosis	47	—	—	14
Parasites and Cysts	8024	—	588	6
Angioma	1236	—	—	—
Oedema	6992	—	208	210
Actinomycosis	100	—	—	—
Emaciation	—	—	—	448
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ...	114	40	—	22
Septicaemia	1154	636	—	1138
Fever	—	174	—	—
Immaturity	—	24	—	—
Tumours	—	—	—	134
Jaundice	—	—	—	72
Gangrene	484	—	—	—
Arthritis	92	—	—	21
Abscesses	1637	28	—	1289
Miscellaneous and Injury...	3516	119	—	99
	23,396	1021	796	3453

It is interesting to observe the trend in the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last four years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		<i>All Diseases</i>		<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1965	...	22 lb	...	—
1966	...	43 lb	...	—
1967	...	31 lb	...	—
1968	...	23 lb	...	0.05 lb

Slaughter of Animals Act 1958

Three applications for licences to slaughter animals were approved.

Food Hygiene

Regular inspections of food premises have been made throughout the year and many minor improvements have been carried out in these businesses as a result of pressure and encouragement by the Inspectors.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers and General	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

All premises are fitted to comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

In addition, 57 stalls in the Council’s weekly market are hired for the sale of a variety of foods, but unwrapped food other than fruit and vegetables is not permitted in the open-air section of the market.

Food delivery vehicles are also kept under observation. In only one instance were defects of a serious nature found, and the owner was eventually persuaded to purchase a new motor-van.

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at shop premises :

Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	...	341½ lbs
Wet Fish	...	...	...	...	...	98 lbs
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	970¾ lbs
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	68 lbs
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	1015½ lbs
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	567 lbs
						<hr/>
						3060¾ lbs
						<hr/>

Three complaints of unfit food were brought to the attention of the Public Health Department. These concerned a mouldy meat pie, mould on canned luncheon meat and loose glass inside a jar of jam. These cases involved a considerable amount of investigation but, following reports of all the circumstances, the Council were satisfied to issue cautions in each instance.

Following information that a chicken-producing centre in another area had become associated with an outbreak of food-poisoning, it was ascertained that a Sandbach business had received supplies of chickens from this source during the material period. 187 birds were withdrawn from sale at the local shop and, although there was no evidence to indicate that they were actually infected, they were condemned and destroyed by the Public Health Department.

Milk

Dealer's Licences are issued by the County Council whose staff regularly take samples of the milk for examination. At the end of 1968 there was only one dairy herd in the district from which milk was sold direct to the public.

Four herd samples of raw milk were taken to ascertain the presence of Brucella Abortus, but all proved culture-negative.

Ice Cream

52 premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice Cream. No Ice Cream is known to be manufactured in the district.

20 samples of unwrapped Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, with the following results :

Grade I	...	...	...	...	4
Grade II	...	...	...	...	4
Grade III	...	...	...	...	8
Grade IV	...	...	...	...	4

Most of the samples classified in Grades III and IV were taken from two particular itinerant salesmen whose ice cream was manufactured in other areas. Co-operation by the Local Authority officials of the two areas concerned resulted in one instance in the sales-vehicle being withdrawn and in the other case a new production plant was installed.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Urban District.

Poultry Processing Establishments

There are no poultry processing establishments in the Urban District.

Other Registered Premises

14 premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and 9 premises are registered for fish frying.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, spends approximately 20 hours per week on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	145
Agricultural Properties	18
Dwelling Houses	155
Local Authority Undertakings ...	31
	<hr/>
	349
	<hr/>

By means of annual contracts the Council deals with 18 commercial and 4 agricultural properties, and this system gives satisfactory results to all concerned.

The sewers throughout the district are tested annually, and treated for rat infestation.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. In December, 1968 a letter was received from the Chairman of the North West Economic Planning Council urging action on the matter, and this was due to be considered by the Council at their next meeting.

Individual cases of industrial smoke emission have been dealt with informally and this has been successful to a large extent.

Noise Abatement

Complaints received in respect of noise nuisances, other than trivial instances, may be grouped as follows :

1. Noise from a mechanical digger which operated at intervals throughout day and night. 100 residents on a nearby housing estate petitioned the Council, and the Public Health Inspectors were involved in night observations over a long period. On being convinced of the nuisance the firm carried out mechanical modifications which resulted in the reduction of noise to a tolerable level.
2. Nuisance caused to residents by the nightly band practice of a "pop" group. As Council property was involved in this instance a remedy was secured without great difficulty.
3. Complaints of general noise from an engineering works. This case concerns an expanding business in a residential area and matters of Planning legislation are involved. However, the evidence obtained on numerous visits to the area has not so far warranted statutory action under the Noise Abatement Act, but the matter is by no means closed.

Other Public Nuisances

The last two Annual Reports have mentioned a serious nuisance of offensive smells arising from an industrial waste tip in the adjoining Rural District.

In the High Court, the Rural District Council were granted an Order of Sequestration subject to a stay of execution, but the land was later acquired from the owner by agreement. Subsequent steps taken by the Rural District Council appeared to be effectual in eliminating the nuisance so far as Sandbach residents were concerned.

In respect of another smell nuisance arising from the calcining of bone at a local factory, the Council served a statutory notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936. The firm subsequently installed deodorant apparatus in the chimney flue, but this did not result in the complete abatement of the nuisance and the matter was still being pursued at the end of the year.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving general insp. during year
Offices	—	34	7
Retail Shops	7	54	26
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	10	3
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	100	37

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act 63

Exemptions

No applications were received for exemption from the provisions of the Act.

Accidents

Only one accident on registered premises was reported during 1968. Investigation at the premises produced no confirmation of the reported circumstances and, as the accident was alleged to have occurred 2½ months previously, no further action was taken.

Factories Act 1961

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	65	21	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	13	11	—	—
TOTAL	89	39	1	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable/defect.	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not sep. for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	—

Outworkers — Nil

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